

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A controller device for controlling a plurality of target devices connected to a data bus for transferring data in a predetermined communication format, said controller device comprising:

first command generating means for generating a first reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device sending the first reserve command to a first target device that accepts the first reserve command from the controller device, and for inhibiting communication between the first target device and all other of the target devices and all other controller devices;

second command generating means for generating a second reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device to the first target device, and for permitting transmission of ~~[[a]]~~ at least one designated command to said first target device from other controller devices, and for inhibiting communication of other than the at least one designated command to said first target device from the other controller devices; and

transmitting means for selectively transmitting to said target devices and other controller devices said first reserve command generated by said first command generating means and for selectively transmitting to said target devices said second reserve command generated by said second command generating means,

wherein said predetermined communication format complies with IEEE 1394 criteria.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A communication system comprising:

a controller device;

a data bus for transferring data in a predetermined communication format; and

a plurality of target devices connected via said data bus to said controller device;

wherein said controller device comprises:

first command generating means for generating a first reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device sending the first reserve command to a first target device that accepts the first reserve command from the controller device, and for inhibiting communication between the first target device and all other of the target devices and all other controller devices;

second command generating means for generating a second reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device to the first target device, and for permitting transmission of a designated command to said first target device from other controller devices;

third command generating means for generating a bus reset command for resetting said data bus for transferring data in said predetermined communication format; and

transmitting means for selectively transmitting to said target devices and other controller devices said first reserve command generated by said first command generating means, for selectively transmitting to said target devices said second reserve command generated by said second command generating means, and for selectively transmitting to said target devices said bus reset command generated by said third command generating means; and

wherein each of said target devices comprises:

receiving means for receiving from said transmitting means said first reserve command generated by said first command generating means, said second reserve command

generated by said second command generating means, and said bus reset command generated by said third command generating means;

judging means for judging whether a reserve command received by said receiving means is said first reserve command or said second reserve command; and

controlling means for validating a reserve command received by said receiving means upon elapse of a first predetermined time following a bus reset if the reserve command thus received is judged by said judging means to be said first reserve command; said controlling means further validating a reserve command received by said receiving means upon elapse of a second predetermined time following said bus reset, said second predetermined time being shorter than said first predetermined time, if the reserve command thus received is judged by said judging means to be said second reserve command.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A communication system according to Claim 6, wherein said specific command transmitted to said first target device provides authentication between said first and another target device.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A communication system according to Claim 6, wherein said specific command transmitted to said first target device identifies attributes of any one of said first and another target device.

Claim 9 (Original): A communication system according to Claim 6, wherein said predetermined communication format complies with IEEE 1394 criteria.

Claim 10 (Original): A communication system according to Claim 6, further comprising operating means operated to select either said first reserve command generated by

said first command generating means or said second reserve command generated by said second command generating means for transmission to said target devices.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A communication system comprising:

a controller device;

a data bus for transferring data in a predetermined communication format; and

a plurality of target devices connected via said data bus to said controller device;

wherein said controller device comprises:

first command generating means for generating a first reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device sending the first reserve command to a first target device that accepts the first reserve command from the controller device, and for inhibiting communication between the first target device and all other of the target devices and all other controller devices;

second command generating means for generating a second reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device to the first target device, and for permitting transmission of [[a]] at least one designated command to said first target device from other controller devices, and for inhibiting communication of other than the at least one designated command to said first target device from the other controller devices; and

transmitting means for selectively transmitting to said target devices and other controller devices said first reserve command generated by said first command generating means and for selectively transmitting to said target devices said second reserve command generated by said second command generating means;

wherein each of said target devices comprises receiving means for selectively receiving said specific command from said another target device in accordance with the second reserve command transmitted from said transmitting means, and

wherein said predetermined communication format complies with IEEE 1394 criteria.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A controlling method for use with a communication system comprising a controller device, a data bus for transferring data in a predetermined communication format, and a plurality of target devices connected via said data bus to said controller device, said controlling method comprising:

receiving either a first reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device sending the first reserve command to a first target device that accepts the first reserve command from the controller device, and for inhibiting communication between the first target device and all other of the target devices and all other controller devices, or a second reserve command for permitting transmission of commands from the controller device to the first target device, and for permitting transmission of a designated command to said first target device from other controller devices;

judging whether the received reserve command is said first reserve command or said second reserve command;

receiving a bus reset command for designating a reset of said data bus for transferring data in said predetermined communication format;

validating the received reserve command upon elapse of a first predetermined time following reception of said bus reset command if the received reserve command is judged to be said first reserve command; and

validating the received reserve command upon elapse of a second predetermined time following reception of said bus reset command, said second predetermined time being shorter than said first predetermined time, if the received reserve command is judged to be said second reserve command.